Scheme for cultural organisations

507. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether there is any scheme for making grants to cultural organisations;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme;

(c) the number of organisations, if any, which have got benefits under the scheme;

(d) the amount made available to each of these organisations, name-wise; and

(e) the details as regards their activities etc?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are several schemes.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Suspense balances in Government Accounts

508. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) the suspense balances in Government Accounts and the cumulative differences with RBI balances and the actual suspense outstanding lying under the debit and credit which are to be handled individually for settlement under the major heads as per the audit reports of the Central Government at the end of the last three financial years;

(b) the periods of delay in settlement for debit and credit items separately for the last three years cited above; and

(c) the steps taken so far and the progress made in settlement of these suspense balances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The delay in settlement is mainly due to delay in receipt of scrolls/put through statements from accredited banks/RBI, non receipt of payment claims from respective departments, delay in receipts of challans/vouchers etc. Constant efforts are made to keep suspense balances as low as possible by periodic reviews and taking corrective action to the extent possible.

Statement

Suspense Account Balance (in crores of Rupees)

Minor head wise details	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
1. Pao suspence	Dr 1152	Dr 599	Dr 1565
2. Suspence (Civil)	Dr 713	Dr 706	Dr 699
3. Telecom A/Cs Office susp.	Dr 2	Dr 2	Dr 2
4. Cash settlement suspense A/C	Dr 367	Dr 302	Dr 237
5. PSB suspense	Dr 3950	Dr 963	Dr 1045
6. RB suspense HQRS	Dr 73	Dr 66	Dr 74
7. RB suspense-CAO	Cr 178	Cr 239	Cr 249
8. Deptl. adjting A/C	Dr 75	Dr 71	Dr 72
9. TDS suspense	Cr 0	Cr 1	Cr 1
10. PF suspense	Dr 12	Dr 8	Dr 2
11. Ext. assistance suspense	Dr 4	Dr 4	Dr 4
12. Susp. for purchases aboard	Dr 994	Dr 1009	Dr 1083
13. Susp. for transcns. on behalf of RBI	Dr 1	Dr 1	Dr 1
14. Adjustment in debt settlement with Pakistan	Dr 11	Dr 11	Dr 11
15. Broadcasting Receiver Licence fee suspense	Dr 1	Dr 1	Dr 1
16. Investment account of Madhya Bharat Rlys. & Military Funds	Dr 1	Dr 1	Dr 1
17. Material purchase suspense account	Dr 31	Dr 51	Dr 72
18. Customs receipts awaiting transfer to receipt head	Cr 112	Cr 119	Cr 104
19. Other nominated Banks (Private Sector Bank)	Cr 804	Cr 0	Cr 0
TOTAL:	Dr 6294	Dr 3436	Dr. 4515
Cumulative Differences of RBI Balances	Cr 161	Dr. 88	Cr 192

Agricultural loans for farmers in North-East India

509. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) wether Government is aware that most of the land in the hills of North-East India is community owned thus making it difficult for farmers to access credit from banks as they do have land to use as collateral; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to solve this problem so as to ensure robust agricultural development and to eradicate inequalities between regions?